

Appl. No. 09/981,878
Amdt. dated 08/04/2004
Reply to Office Action of 05/07/2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the interview of August 3, 2004. Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, The Examiner requested that the patents referred to in the Application be formally introduced in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). Further, the Examiner objected to the Specification because an erroneous patent number was attributed to one of the referred patents. In addition, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauersfeld et al. and Anupam et al.

Due to a typographical error, Applicants have entered an erroneous patent number in the Specification. The Specification has been accordingly amended to correct the error.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 have been amended to overcome the §102 rejection. As a result of the amendment, Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18 have become superfluous and thus are canceled. New claims 21 - 28 have been added for consideration. Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 are now dependent on one of the newly added claims and are amended to reflect such dependence. Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 are amended to better claim Applicants' invention.

For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

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As stated in the SPECIFICATION, when a user accesses a Web page that may later be re-visited, the user may bookmark the page (i.e., store the URL of the Web page in a bookmark folder). Thus, Web pages that are visited daily may ordinarily be bookmarked. However, each time a user wants to re-visit each one of these bookmarked Web pages, the user has to pull down the bookmark folder to display a list of the bookmarked Web pages. Once the list is displayed, the user may select one of the bookmarked Web pages to access. After making the selection, the user, to access the bookmarked Web page, has to double click (with the aid of a mouse) on the bookmarked Web page.

This method of accessing bookmarked Web pages is fine so long as a user is randomly accessing bookmarked Web pages. But, if a user consistently accesses a series of bookmarked Web pages every day, this method becomes quickly very cumbersome.

The present invention provides a method, system and apparatus for accessing bookmarked Web pages without opening a bookmark folder. The invention uses an icon in a browser to access the bookmarked Web pages. Specifically, when a Web page is being bookmarked, it can be chosen to be part of a route (i.e., a string of bookmarks to be successively accessed). Provided there is an existing route, when the browser is first instantiated during the day, the icon in the browser will point directly to the first bookmark Web page in the route. Therefore, if the user clicks on the icon, the first bookmarked Web page in the route will be accessed without the bookmark folder having been opened.

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The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A method of accessing and displaying a plurality of bookmarked web pages, the plurality of bookmarked Web pages being arranged in a bookmark folder in a sequence in which the bookmarked Web pages are to be accessed, the method comprising the steps of:

activating a browser for a first time in a day, said browser, upon activation, having at least one icon be associated with the first one of said bookmarked web pages in the sequence; and

asserting said at least one icon for accessing and displaying said first one of said bookmarked Web pages. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauersfeld et al. and Anupam et al. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the applied references.

Bauersfeld et al. purport to teach a session navigation and recording system for generating user defined paths. In accordance with the teachings of Bauersfeld et al., as a user navigates through the Internet, the user may elect to have the Web pages that are being accessed bookmarked for later retrieval. The bookmarked Web pages are stored in a session file folder. Generally, a default session file folder, having for name the current date, is used for storing the bookmarked Web pages. The user may, at any time, change the name of the default session file folder to any other name. In any case, when the user instantiates the browser for the first time in a day, the

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default session file folder will be empty. It will not start to fill up until the user has started to navigate through the Internet.

Nonetheless, the user may, after activating the browser, revisit a previously stored set of bookmarked web pages. To do so, the user needs to replace the default session file folder with a session file folder into which the set of bookmarked Web pages have been previously stored. The user can do so by selecting, using a pull down menu of a session tool bar, the desired session file folder. Once that is done, the user may access the bookmarked Web pages by asserting a BACK or a FORWARD button on the session tool bar.

Therefore, Bauersfeld et al. do not teach or suggest having at least one icon being associated with one of a plurality of bookmarked web pages upon the first activation of a browser in a day as claimed. Rather, Bauerfelds et al. arguably teach that the user has to make that association by choosing a session file folder that contains a set of bookmarked Web pages or that the user has to begin to navigate through the Internet before the association occurs.

Anupam et al., on the other hand, purport to teach a method of creating and playing back a smart bookmark that automatically retrieves a requested Web page through a plurality of intermediate Web pages. According to the teachings of Anupam et al., some Web sites require a user to go through a series of interactive steps in order to eventually reach a page that contains data that is of interest to the user. One example used by Anupam et al. is

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the retrieval of balance information in one's retirement account over the Internet. To do so, one has to first access the Home page of the retirement account manager's Web site. There, the user may have to log in and fill out a form that requests user information such as the user's identity (i.e., social security number and password). It is only after the requested information has been uploaded and verified that the user's current balance information is provided on a Web page created just for the user.

Anupam et al., therefore, provide a smart bookmark into which the sequence of the Web pages that are accessed as well as the information entered in the Web pages by the user may be stored. This allows the user to automatically and sequentially step through each browsing step until the last page is retrieved.

The smart bookmark, however, is an HTML file into which a recorder/player Java applet together with the data that represents the smart bookmark steps are embedded. Hence, in order to play the recorded smart bookmark, the user must load the HTML file through the browser (see column 9, lines 10 - 15).

Therefore, just as Bauersfeld et al., Anupam et al. do not teach, show or suggest a method of *having at least one icon being associated with one of a plurality of bookmarked web pages upon the first activation of a browser in a day* as claimed.

Consequently, Applicants submit that Claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable. Independent Claims 6, 11 and 16, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations in the above-reproduced

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claim 1, together with their dependent claims should also be allowable. Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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